

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10

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DRAFTED BY H:RTBURNS:JN

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APPROVED BY H:MWRIGHT

PM - MR. SLOSS

RPM - MR. STREATOR

EA - MR. HELBLE

DOD - COL. HAMMOND

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R 012345Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO USCINCEUR

USDELMC

USNMRS SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151738

E.O. 1652 GDS

TAGS: MCAP - NATO

SUBJECT: HOUSE DEFEATS TROOP CUT PROPOSALS

1. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEFEATED ON JULY 31

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A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

WHICH WOULD HAVE REDUCED U.S. TROOP LEVELS OVERSEAS. THE KEY ACTION CAME ON AN AMENDMENT BY MAJORITY LEADER O'NEILL TO REDUCE LAND-BASED FORCES OVERSEAS BY 100,000 BY NEXT JUNE 30. THE HOUSE APPROVED BY 242 TO 163 A SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT INSTRUCTING THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE A STUDY BY APRIL 1 ON WHETHER US FORCES IN EUROPE SHOULD BE REDUCED, THUS IN EFFECT DEFEATING THE O'NEILL AMENDMENT BY THAT MARGIN.

2. AN AMENDMENT BY CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS (D-CALIFORNIA) IMPOSING A 300,000 MAN CEILING ON OVERSEAS FORCES BY NEXT JUNE 30 WAS DEFEATED 339 TO 67. AN AMENDMENT BY CONGRESSMAN PIKE (D-NY) TO REMOVE US FORCES FROM COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT DEVOTE AS MUCH OF THEIR GNP TO DEFENSE AS WE DO WAS DEFEATED 282 TO 130.

3. IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT HOW THIS VERY FAVORABLE HOUSE ACTION WILL AFFECT THE SITUATION IN THE SENATE, WHERE THE SENTIMENT FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS IS CONSIDERABLY STRONGER. THE IMMINENCE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS OBVIOUSLY HAD A DETERRENT EFFECT IN THE HOUSE, AND PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT IN THE SENATE AS WELL WHEN THAT BODY CONCENTRATES ON TROOP LEVEL ISSUES AFTER LABOR DAY.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE HOUSE ACTION WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS YOU SHOULD CHARACTERIZE IT AS A SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUITY OF OUR BASIC POST-WAR NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD CAUTION THAT THE SENATE WILL BE A MORE DIFFICULT HURDLE, AND THAT THE HOUSE ACTION PERMITS NO RESPITE IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FORCES AND FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE IN BURDEN SHARING. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT IN THE HOUSE DEBATE THE MEMBERS FOCUSED MOST SHARPLY ON OUR CONTINUING BOP DEFICIT ON MILITARY ACCOUNT WITH THE EUROPEANS, AND THAT THE FAVORABLE HOUSE ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE CLEAR EXPECTATION THAT THE NATO ALLIES WILL HELP US

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IN THE COMING MONTHS TO FIND A BETTER WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM.

5. WE ALSO WANT THE EMBASSIES TO TELL US OF PLANNED VISITS TO THE US IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POLITICAL LEADERS, BUSINESSMEN OR NEWSMEN WHO THE EMBASSIES BELIEVE COULD SPEAK HELPFULLY AND PERSUASIVELY TO CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS

AND KEY STAFF PEOPLE ABOUT THE DEFENSE EFFORTS OF OUR
ALLIES AND ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TROOP ISSUE
TO THE BROAD COMPLEX OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THEIR
COUNTRIES. ROGERS

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